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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/552,985	07/10/2007	Yasufumi Asao	00684.109140.	2399

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EXAMINER	
BRAY, STEPHEN A	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2629	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/552,985	ASAO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	STEPHEN A. BRAY	2629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *13 October 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-16* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) *1-6* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *7-16* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *13 October 2005* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *10/13/2005; 3/13/2007*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Claims 7-16 in the reply filed on 4/29/2010 is acknowledged.

2. Claims 1-6 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected group, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 4/29/2010.

3. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 7-10, 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takamatsu (US 4,877,309) in view of Yoshida et al (US 5,796,378).

Regarding claim 7, *Takamatsu* discloses a color display apparatus of the type wherein a unit pixel is constituted by a plurality of subpixels including a plurality of first subpixels and a plurality of second subpixels, and at each subpixel, a medium for changing an optical property depending on a voltage applied thereto is disposed (Figure 1 of *Takamatsu* discloses having a second group of subpixels formed by electrodes 1-18, 1-19, and 1-20, and a first group of subpixels formed by electrodes 1-21, 1-22, and 1-23, where said first group and said second group of subpixels each have an LC layer 1-36 which changes an optical property based a voltage applied thereto from sources 1-26 through 1-31.), said color display apparatus comprising:

means for applying a voltage, to the plurality of second subpixels, for changing the optical property of the medium within a brightness change range in which the light passing through the medium is changed in brightness (Figures 1-2 and Column 6, lines 54-64 of *Takamatsu* disclose that based upon the voltage applied to the subpixels, the light passing through the liquid crystal layer can be blocked, i.e. display the color black. Therefore the brightness change range would be from visible (see light/color) to not visible (see a black pixel).), and

two color filters of two colors selected from three colors of red, green and blue, provided to at least two subpixels, respectively, of the plurality of second subpixels (Figure 1 and Column 3, line 62 through Column 4, line 17 of *Takamatsu* discloses that the second group of subpixels formed by electrodes 1-18, 1-19, and 1-20 contains color polarizers 1-6, 1-7, and 1-8, which are blue, red, and green in color respectively. Thus Takamatsu teaches having at least two color filters with two different color applied to at least two subpixels of the plurality of second subpixels.).

Takamatsu fails to teach a means for applying a voltage, to the plurality of first subpixels, for changing the optical property of the medium within a brightness change range in which light passing through the medium is changed in brightness and a hue change range in which the light passing through the medium assumes chromatic color and a hue of the chromatic color is changed.

Yoshida et al discloses a means for applying a voltage, to the plurality of first subpixels, for changing the optical property of the medium within a brightness change range in which light passing through the medium is changed in brightness and a hue change range in which the light passing through the medium assumes chromatic color and a hue of the chromatic color is changed (Figure 3 and Column 5, line 1 through Column 6, line 15 of *Yoshida et al* discloses applying a voltage to a plurality of subpixels to change the optical property of a medium to generate a change in color of light passing through said plurality of subpixels. Column 11, lines 1-9 of *Yoshida et al* discloses changing the brightness of light passing through the subpixels, i.e. "light

white", instead of a brighter white light. Column 1, lines 41-55 of Yoshida et al also discloses that said LC display apparatus can generate display colors, i.e. hue and gradation (brightness), which are close to the real colors.).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made to modify the display device taught by *Takamatsu* with the teachings of *Yoshida et al* in order to form a display device in which gradation display can be performed and the number of colors generated is greater than the number of applied voltages.

Regarding claim 8, *Takamatsu* as modified above discloses an apparatus according to claim 7, wherein two color filters of two colors complementary to the two colors of the two color filters provided to at least two subpixels of the plurality of second subpixels are provided to at least two subpixels, respectively, of the plurality of first subpixels (Figure 1 and Column 3, line 62 through Column 4, line 53 of *Takamatsu* disclose that the color polarizers 1-6, 1-7, and 1-8 of the second group of subpixels are blue, red and green. The color polarizers 1-12, 1-13, and 1-14 of the first group of subpixels are yellow, cyan, and magenta. Column 4, lines 18-23 and Column 4, lines 31-35 of *Takamatsu* disclose that the colors of the color polarizers between the first group of subpixels and the second group of subpixels are complementary colors.).

Regarding claim 9, *Takamatsu* as modified above discloses an apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the two colors of the two color filters provided to at least two subpixels of the plurality of first subpixels are cyan and magenta, and the two colors

of the two color filters provided to at least two subpixels of the plurality of second subpixels are red and green (Figure 1 and Column 3, line 62 through Column 4, line 53 of *Takamatsu* disclose that the color polarizers 1-6, 1-7, and 1-8 of the second group of subpixels are blue, red and green. The color polarizers 1-12, 1-13, and 1-14 of the first group of subpixels are yellow, cyan, and magenta. Therefore *Takamatsu* teaches that two of the color filters for the plurality of first subpixels are cyan and magenta and two of the color filters for the plurality of second subpixels are red and green. Column 11, lines 47-68 and Figure 13 of *Takamatsu* also teaches the above subject matter where only two color filters are used.).

Regarding claim 10, *Takamatsu* as modified above discloses an apparatus according to any one of claims 7-9, wherein said apparatus further comprises a pair of oppositely disposed substrates, and a layer of liquid crystal as the medium (Figure 1 of *Takamatsu* discloses having a pair of oppositely dispose substrates 1-1, 1-2, and 1-3, where a liquid crystal layer 1-36 is disposed between the substrates.),

wherein said apparatus has a function of modulating incident polarized light into a predetermined state of polarization by utilizing a change in retardation on the basis of a change in alignment of liquid crystal molecules in the liquid crystal layer (Figures 2-4 and Column 5, line 13 through Column 6, line 68 of *Takamatsu* disclose modulating incident polarized light into a predetermined state of polarization in accordance with the alignment of the liquid crystal layer 1-36.), and

the plurality of subpixels include the plurality of first subpixels at which color display using a modulation area on the basis of change in hue depending on the change

on the basis of the change in alignment of liquid crystal molecules in the liquid crystal layer and the plurality of second subpixels (Figures 2-4 and Column 5, line 13 through Column 6, line 68 of *Takamatsu* disclose that the color output from the liquid crystal display unit D is dependent upon the state of or change in alignment of the liquid crystal molecules in the plurality of first sub-pixels and also in the plurality of second subpixels.).

Regarding claim 14, *Takamatsu* as modified above discloses an apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the liquid crystal molecules in the liquid crystal layer are substantially aligned homogeneously with respect to the substrate when a voltage is not applied to the liquid crystal layer (Figure 2 of *Takamatsu* discloses that when no voltage is applied to the liquid crystal layer 1-36, the layer aligns homogeneously with respect to the substrate.).

7. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takamatsu (US 4,877,309) and Yoshida et al (US 5,796,378) as applied to claim 10 above, and further in view of Clerc et al (US 4,813,770).

Regarding claim 11, *Takamatsu* as modified above discloses an apparatus according to claim 10.

Takamatsu as modified above fails to teach wherein the liquid crystal molecules in the liquid crystal layer have a negative dielectric anisotropy and are substantially aligned homeotropically with respect to the substrate when a voltage is not applied to the liquid crystal layer.

Clerc et al discloses wherein the liquid crystal molecules in the liquid crystal layer have a negative dielectric anisotropy and are substantially aligned homeotropically with respect to the substrate when a voltage is not applied to the liquid crystal layer (Figure 3 and Column 7, lines 11-17 of *Clerc et al* discloses that the liquid crystal modules of layers 2 and 4 are aligned substantially perpendicular to the substrate when a voltage is not applied to the substrate. The abstract of *Clerc et al* also discloses that the liquid crystal molecules consist of a negative anisotropy material.).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made to further modify the display device taught by *Takamatsu* with the teachings of *Clerc et al* in order to form a display device in which parasitic visual effects and slowness of the optical response can be avoided.

8. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takamatsu (US 4,877,309) and Yoshida et al (US 5,796,378) and Clerc et al (US 4,813,770) as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of Ono et al (US 6,038,001).

Regarding claim 12, *Takamatsu* as modified above discloses an apparatus according to claim 11.

Takamatsu as modified above fails to teach wherein the liquid crystal molecules are controlled so that they are inclined in at least two directions different in optical axis thereof when a voltage is applied to the liquid crystal layer.

Ono et al discloses wherein the liquid crystal molecules are controlled so that they are inclined in at least two directions different in optical axis thereof when a voltage is applied to the liquid crystal layer (Figure 3 of *Ono et al* discloses that the liquid crystal modules 18a are inclined in at least two directions different in optical axis when a voltage is applied to the liquid crystal layer 18.).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made to further modify the display device taught by *Takamatsu* with the teachings of *Ono et al* in order to form a display device which can display clear gray-scale images while being driven in high-duty time division, which exhibits a narrow operating voltage margin.

9. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takamatsu (US 4,877,309) and Yoshida et al (US 5,796,378) as applied to claim10 above, and further in view of Ono et al (US 6,038,001).

Regarding claim 13, *Takamatsu* as modified above discloses an apparatus according to claim 10.

Takamatsu as modified above fails to teach wherein the liquid crystal molecules in the liquid crystal layer are placed in a bend alignment state at least when a voltage is applied to the liquid crystal layer.

Ono et al discloses wherein the liquid crystal molecules in the liquid crystal layer are placed in a bend alignment state at least when a voltage is applied to the liquid

crystal layer (Figure 3 of *Ono et al* discloses aligning the liquid crystal modules into a bend alignment state when a voltage is applied.).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made to further modify the display device taught by *Takamatsu* with the teachings of *Ono et al* in order to form a display device which can display clear gray-scale images while being driven in high-duty time division, which exhibits a narrow operating voltage margin.

10. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takamatsu (US 4,877,309) and Yoshida et al (US 5,796,378) as applied to claim 10 above, and further in view of Hall (US 5,841,494).

Regarding claim 15, *Takamatsu* as modified above discloses an apparatus according to claim 10.

Takamatsu as modified above fails to teach wherein said apparatus is a transflective-type color display apparatus in which a single polarizing plate is used.

Hall discloses wherein said apparatus is a transflective-type color display apparatus in which a single polarizing plate is used (Figure 4 and the abstract of *Hall* discloses a transflective display with a single polarizing plate 12 being used.).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made to further modify the display device taught by *Takamatsu* with the teachings of *Hall* in order to form a display device in which the brightness of the display can be greater than the brightness of “transmissive only” LCD display devices.

11. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takamatsu (US 4,877,309) and Yoshida et al (US 5,796,378) as applied to claims 7-9 above, and further in view of Moon (US 6,621,543).

Regarding claim 16, *Takamatsu* as modified above discloses an apparatus according to any one of claims 7-9.

Takamatsu as modified above fails to teach wherein said apparatus is a transflective-type color display apparatus comprising at least light illumination means, a pair of substrates each provided with an electrode, and a pair of polarization plates, and wherein at least one of the pair of substrates has a light reflective first area and a light transmissive second area.

Moon discloses wherein said apparatus is a transflective-type color display apparatus comprising at least light illumination means, a pair of substrates each provided with an electrode, and a pair of polarization plates, and wherein at least one of the pair of substrates has a light reflective first area and a light transmissive second area (Figure 5 and Column 5, line 22 through Column 6, line 23 of *Moon* disclose having a transflective LCD device 100 with a backlight 115, a first substrates 101 with an electrode 108, a second substrate 105 which has a reflective electrode 109, which makes up a light reflective first area, and containing transparent portions “H” which make up a light transmissive second area, and a pair of polarization plates 103 and 111.).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made to further modify the display device taught by *Takamatsu* with the teachings of *Moon* in order to form a display device in which absorption of light by the lower polarizer can be reduced or prevented.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to STEPHEN A. BRAY whose telephone number is (571)270-7124. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, AMR AWAD can be reached on (571)272-7764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/STEPHEN A BRAY/
Examiner, Art Unit 2629

/Amr Awad/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2629

20 May 2010